

Eid al-Fitr Sermon Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV on 27th December 2000 at Islamabad, Tilford - UK

Did He not find thee an orphan and give shelter?
He found thee wandering in search enamoured and didst guide thee.
He found thee wanting and didst enrich.
So oppress not the orphan.
As for the beggar, chide him not.
As for the bounty of your Lord do relate it to others.¹

A *Hadith* [Tradition] of the Noble Prophet ﷺ in relation to expressing gratitude for the bounties:

Narrated Amr bin Shuyaib from his father, from his grandfather who said: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said 'Indeed Allah loves to see the results of his bounties upon His servants.'²

It means that in order to attain to virtue one ought to make use of the bounties bestowed by God.

In one narration it is stated that if someone observes a person who has been granted more than oneself financially and physically than one should also observe the person who does not possess that thing.³ Not all people are equal. Some are at a higher level and some are at a lower level. There are many who are surrounded by tribulations. One can only do justice to expressing gratitude for the bounties by appreciating them otherwise one does not think of it.

An aspect of expressing gratitude for the bounties is in serving the creation of God. In this connection there is a Hadith of the Prophet:

Abu Hurayrah reported Allah's Messenger ﷺ as saying: Verily, Allah, the Exalted and Glorious, would say on the Day of Resurrection: O son of Adam, I was sick but you did not visit Me. He would say: O my Lord; how could I visit Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds? Thereupon He would say: Did you not know that such and such servant of Mine was sick but you did not visit him and were you not aware of this that if you had visited him, you would have found Me by him? O son of Adam, I asked food from you but you did not feed Me. He would say: My Lord, how could I feed Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds? He would say: Did you not know that such and such servant of Mine asked food from you but you did not feed him, and were you not aware that if you had fed him you would have found him by My side? The Lord would again say: O son of Adam, I asked drink from you but you did not provide Me. He would say: My Lord, how could I provide Thee whereas Thou art the Lord of the worlds? Thereupon He would say: Such and such a servant of Mine asked you for a drink but you did not provide him, and had you provided him drink you would have found him near Me.⁴

¹ *The Holy Quran*. Al Duha [The Bright Morning]: 7 - 12.

² Abu Isa Muhammad ibn Isa al-Tirmidhi. *Jami' at-Tirmidhi*.

³ Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari. *Sahih Bukhari*.

⁴ For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

In this there is a strict condition that deeds of virtue should be done in order to please God.

His Holiness the Promised Messiah (peace be on him) states that 'Humility is an essential condition of servitude but as per the commandment of the sacred verse 'As for the bounty of your Lord do relate it to others' it is very important to express [appreciation of] the Divine bounties'. His Holiness (peace be on him) reminded of expressing gratitude for the bounties of God and also stated that 'gratitude does not mean that one should only speak of it verbally but that it should be seen upon one's body as well. The Messenger of Allah is an Excellent Exemplar for us. As far as possible one should follow upon his footsteps and not take any step that deviates [from his example]. Remember well that one who is not pleased upon receiving the bounty of Almighty God and does not express it practically is not devout.'

In the end I present the gift of Eid Mubarak to members of the Community. Also I send a personal message of Eid Mubarak and on behalf of the entire Ahmadiyya Community worldwide to the Prisoners in the Cause of Allah and the families of the martyrs as messages of Eid Mubarak are coming from almost every country and my File is full of them. It is not possible to reply to all of them individually. So I present the gift of Eid Mubarak to everybody on this occasion.

Assalamo alaikum and Eid Mubarak.

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Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?
When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?
Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?
And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.
Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:
For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:
I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.
Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?
Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

The Holy Bible, Matthew 25: 35 - 45.